AQA

A-level
ENGLISH LITERATURE A

Paper 2A Texts in shared contexts: WW1 and its aftermath

Thursday 8 June 2023 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:
- an AQA 12-page answer book
- a copy of the Insert for use with Section B (enclosed)
- a copy of each of the set texts you have studied for this paper. These texts must **not** be annotated and must **not** contain additional notes or materials.

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7712/2A.
- Read all of the questions. Then choose **either** Option 1 **or** Option 2 **or** Option 3. Answer **one** question from Section A and **both** questions from Section B from your chosen option. You must answer questions from **only one** option.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 75.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- In your response you need to:
  – analyse carefully the writers' methods
  – explore the contexts of the texts you are writing about
  – explore connections across the texts you have studied
  – explore different interpretations of your texts.

Option 1

Section A: Poetry Set Text

Answer **one** question in this section.

Up the Line to Death – ed. Brian Gardner

Either

0 1 ‘In *Up the Line to Death* comradeship makes the horrors of war bearable.’

Examine the presentation of comradeship in this anthology in the light of this view.

You must write about **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

or

0 2 Look again at the section called ‘To Unknown Lands’.

Examine the significance of the title chosen for this section.

You must write about **at least two** poems from this section.

[25 marks]

Scars Upon My Heart – ed. Catherine Reilly

or

0 3 ‘We dare not weep who must be brave in battle.’ (From the untitled poem by Iris Tree)

Examine the presentation of bravery in *Scars Upon My Heart* in the light of this quotation.

You must write about **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

or

0 4 Examine the significance of the representation of religion in the anthology.

You must write about **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

Option 1

Section B: Drama and Prose Contextual Linking

Read the Insert. Answer **both** questions in this section.

Read the Insert carefully. It is taken from *The Forbidden Zone* by Mary Borden (1886–1968) published in 1929. The extract describes a French regiment returning from the front line trenches.

Answer **both** questions.

0 5 Explore the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Borden shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

and

0 6 Compare the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in **two** other texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

You must use **one** drama text and **one** prose text in your response, at least **one** of which **must** be a text written post-2000.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

Option 2

Section A: Drama Set Text

Answer **one** question in this section.

Oh! What a Lovely War – Joan Littlewood

Either

0 7 ‘Littlewood suggests that, in war, individuals don’t matter.’

Examine this view of *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

[25 marks]

or

0 8 Examine the significance of ‘the ever popular War Game’ in *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

[25 marks]

Journey’s End – R C Sherriff

or

0 9 Examine the significance of the dugout as the setting of the play.

[25 marks]

or

1 0 ‘Hibbert’s fear is condemned by other characters, but understood by the audience.’

Examine the presentation of Hibbert in the light of this view.

[25 marks]

Option 2

Section B: Prose and Poetry Contextual Linking

Read the Insert. Answer **both** questions in this section.

Read the Insert carefully. It is taken from *The Forbidden Zone* by Mary Borden (1886–1968) published in 1929. The extract describes a French regiment returning from the front line trenches.

Answer **both** questions.

1 1 Explore the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Borden shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

and

1 2 Compare the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in **two** other texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

You must use **one** prose text written post-2000 and **one** poetry text in your response.

You must write about **at least two** poems.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

Option 3

Section A: Prose Set Text

Answer **one** question in this section.

Regeneration – Pat Barker

Either

1 3 ‘For Sarah Lumb, the war is liberating.’

Examine the presentation of Sarah Lumb in *Regeneration* in the light of this view.

[25 marks]

or

1 4 ‘If we cannot remember, we can never understand who we are.’

Examine the presentation of memory in *Regeneration* in the light of this view.

[25 marks]

Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks

or

1 5 Examine the significance of tunnelling in *Birdsong*.

[25 marks]

or

1 6 ‘Michael Weir is an innocent in war.’

Examine the significance of Michael Weir in the light of this view.

[25 marks]

Option 3

Section B: Drama and Poetry Contextual Linking

Read the Insert. Answer **both** questions in this section.

Read the Insert carefully. It is taken from *The Forbidden Zone* by Mary Borden (1886–1968) published in 1929. The extract describes a French regiment returning from the front line trenches.

Answer **both** questions.

1 7 Explore the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Borden shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

and

1 8 Compare the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in **two** other texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

You must use the drama text written post-2000 (*The Wipers Times*) and **one** poetry text in your response.

You must write about **at least two** poems.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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